

*Docket: 399483*

### REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, and 20 are currently amended. Claims 14-19 and 21-34 are withdrawn without prejudice.

#### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Qiu et al. (1998). Claims 7-9 are said to be allowable.

Claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended, generally, to recite the limitations of claims 5-7. Claims 5-7 have been cancelled. This amendment should place the claims in condition for allowance, as the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 7 is allowable.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant's attorney respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. A Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith along with the authorization to charge the fee of \$1,020 to Deposit Account 12-0600. Applicant believes no further fees are currently due. However, should any additional fees be required in connection with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fees to Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

**LATHROP & GAGE, LC**

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